

REMARKS

This response replies to the Office Action mailed January 4, 2005 in accordance with *Ex Parte Quayle*. In response to the Examiner's objections to the Specification and the Drawings, Applicants have amended the Drawings as indicated above and as reflected in the appended replacement sheets and annotated sheets showing changes.

Applicants have amended the Specification to correct the misspellings of the words "complementary" and "gigapascals."

Applicants have amended the claims as indicated above to correct drafting errors, and not for any reasons of patentability. In particular, Applicants have corrected misspellings in the word "complementary" in claims 1, 11, 15 and 17, the word "gigapascals" in claims 2, 4 and 11, and the word "or" in claim 9. Applicants have amended claims 2, 4, and 11 to reflect the method of hardness testing disclosed in the specification at paragraph [0036], namely, "Vickers microhardness testing according to American Society of Testing and Materials (ASTM) E384, last revised, March 2001." These amendments to the claims add no new subject matter to the application.

Applicants submit that the application is in condition for allowance, which they respectfully request.

Respectfully submitted,



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AMENDMENTS TO THE DRAWINGS

The attached sheets of drawings include changes to Figures 4, 7, 8, and 9.

Page 9, which includes Figures 3 and 4, replaces the original sheet including Figures 3 and 4. Only Figure 4 on this sheet has been amended, to delete reference numeral 22 as instructed by the Examiner in the Office Action (“In Fig.4, reference numeral “22” should be deleted.”).

Page 11, which includes Figure 7, replaces the original sheet including Figure 7. In amended Figure 7, reference numeral 128 (paper) has been changed to 122 (housing), in response to the Examiner’s objection that “In Fig.7, reference numeral “128” should read -- 122 --.” Also in Figure 7, the drawing has been amended to more accurately depict the position of blade 118 as described in the specification in paragraphs [0052] and [0053].

Pages 13 and 15, which include Figures 8 and 9, respectively, replace the original sheets including Figures 8 and 9. Figures 8 and 9 have been amended to include reference numeral 232, in response to the Examiner’s objection that “On pages 11 and 12 [of the Specification], reference numeral ‘232’ is not found in any drawings.”

The amendments to the drawings add no new subject matter to the application.

Attachments (8): Replacement Sheets (4)
 Annotated Sheets Showing Changes (4)

Annotated Sheet Showing Changes

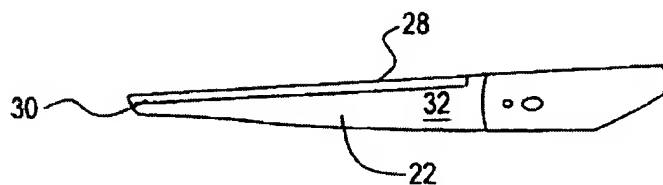


Fig. 3

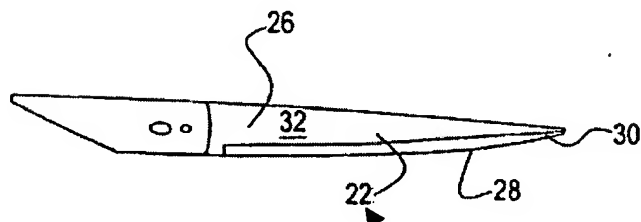


Fig. 4

Reference numeral 22 deleted

Annotated Sheet Showing Changes

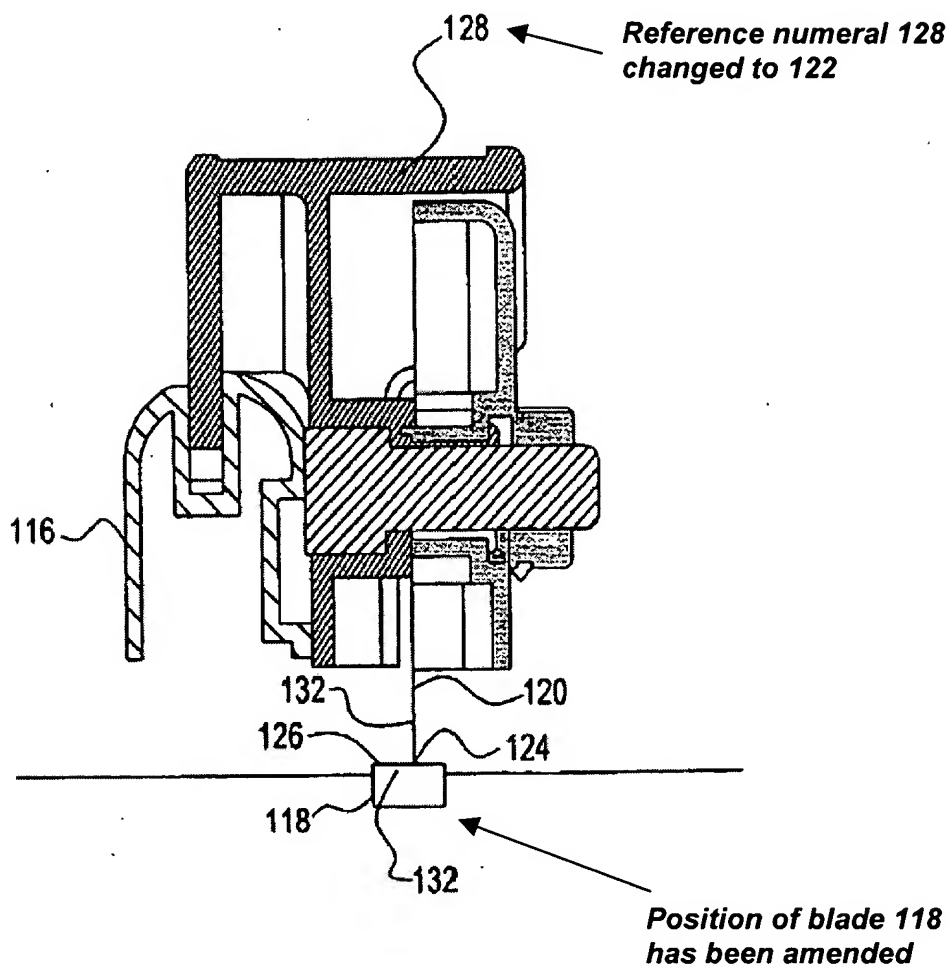


Fig. 7

Annotated Sheet Showing Changes

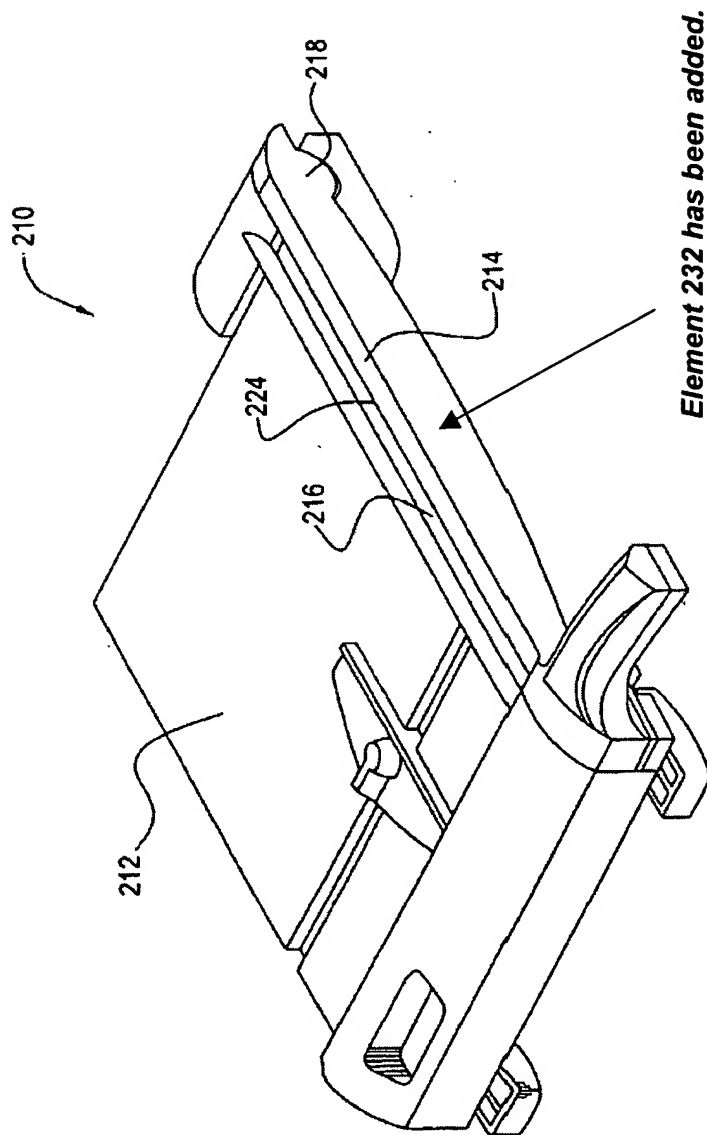


Fig. 8

Annotated Sheet Showing Changes

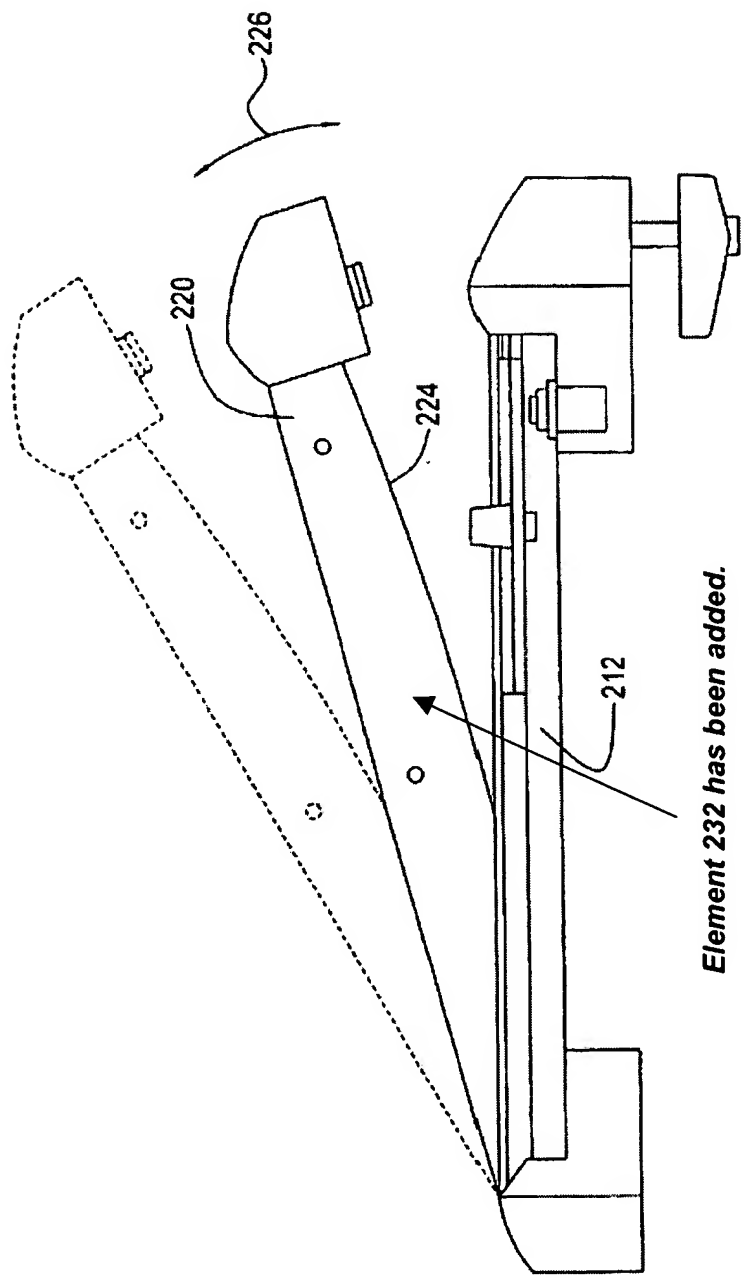


Fig. 9